

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A laboratory analyzer system comprising a base housing (1); a sample tray (4) movably supported on the base housing; at least two holding accommodations (5) arranged on the sample tray (4) for holding a sample container (32) for a sample that is to be analyzed; a drive mechanism (2) arranged inside the base housing and operable to move the sample tray (4) so that the sample container (32) is advanced in a stepwise motion~ along a prescribed track; an analyzer module installed on the base housing along the prescribed track and operable to analyze the sample as it arrives at the analyzer module; and a lid-opening device (50) arranged along the prescribed track at a location that the sample container (32) reaches before it arrives at the analyzer module (16), said lid-opening device (50) being operable to open a lid (32') by which the sample container (32) may be covered, said lid (32') having a predetermined shape and thickness (H), wherein the lid-opening device (50) comprises an electromagnet (51) energizable through a switch (S) and configured to hold the lid (32') in an open position.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The analyzer system of claim 2 1, wherein the electromagnet (51) comprises a U-shaped core (52, 53, 54) with poles (52, 53) facing the lid (32').

4. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 3, wherein the lid (32') has a thickness (H) and the electromagnet (51) is installed in a stationary condition in the lid-opening device (50) at a distance from the lid (32') corresponding to at least twice the thickness (H).

5. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 1, wherein the lid-opening device (50) is adapted to be installed on the base housing (1) by means of a non-destructively releasable mounting arrangement (17) consisting of at least two parts.

6. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism (2) is a rotary drive mechanism and the sample tray (4) is disk-shaped and driven in rotary movement by the rotary drive mechanism.

7. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 6, wherein the holding accommodations (50) are positioned along a circle at equal angular intervals and the lid-opening device (50) is offset from the analyzer module (16) by only one of said angular

intervals.

8. (Currently amended) The analyzer system of claim 2 1, wherein the analyzer module (16) is adapted to cooperate with a control arrangement comprising at least one program to control the movements of the analyzer system, said at least one program having steps by which

a) the lid-opening device (50) can be actuated to remove and hold the lid (32'),

b) the sample container (32) is advanced to the analyzer module (16), so that an analysis can be performed,

c) the sample container (32) is returned to the lid-opening device (50) and the lid (32') is set back on the sample container (32),

d) a next following sample container is advanced to the lid-opening device (50).

9. (Currently amended) The analyzer system of claim 2 1, wherein the analyzer module (16) is adapted to cooperate with a control arrangement comprising at least one program to control the movements of the analyzer system, said at least one program having steps by which

a) the lid-opening device (50) can be actuated to remove the lid (32') from the sample container (32),

b) an immediately preceding sample container is returned from the analyzer module (16) to the lid-opening device (50) and the lid (32') held from step a) is placed on said preceding sample container,

c) the sample tray (4) is advanced so that the sample container (32) is moved to the analyzer module (16) for an analysis to be performed, while at the same time a next following sample container is advanced to the lid-opening device (50)

10. (Currently amended) The analyzer system of claim 2 1, wherein the analyzer module (16) is adapted to cooperate with a control arrangement comprising at least one program to control the movements of the analyzer system, and further comprising at least one sensor mark (8, 30) on the sample tray (4) and a stationary reader device (7, 28) for the sensor mark (8, 30), said reader device being located on at least one of the base housing (1), the analyzer module (16), and the lid-opening device (50), said at least one sensor mark (8, 30) and said reader device (7, 28) being operable to control at least one of the sample tray (4) and the lid-opening device (50).

11. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 10, wherein the sensor mark (30) is designed for non-destructively releasable attachment to the sample tray (4) through a fastening arrangement

(29) adjacent to at least one of the holding accommodations (5

12. (Currently amended) The analyzer system of claim 2 1, wherein the analyzer module (16) is adapted to cooperate with a control arrangement comprising at least one program to control the movements of the analyzer system, and wherein further the control arrangement is adapted to cooperate with a keypad (112, 112').

13. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 12, wherein the keypad (112') is connected to the base housing (1).

14. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 3, wherein the lid (32') is made of a non-magnetic material containing a magnet-anchor element (55).

15. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 14, wherein the magnet-anchor element (55) is covered by a layer (56) the non-magnetic material, said layer defining a prescribed distance (d).

16. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 15, wherein the magnet-anchor element (55) is completely encased in the non-magnetic material.

17. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 16, wherein the non-magnetic material is a polymer material and the magnet-anchor element is molded into the polymer material.

18. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 14, wherein the magnet-anchor element is ring-shaped, substantially as wide as the electromagnet (51) is from one pole to the other, and approximately centered in the lid (32').

19. (Original) The analyzer system of claim 14, wherein the lid (32') comprises at least one of a centering projection (58) and a centering recess for centering the lid (32') on the sample container (32).